



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 18 2007

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL
AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This responds to your letter of December 14, 2007 requesting information regarding the status of EPA's decision on California's request for a waiver under section 209 of the Clean Air Act.

EPA takes its obligation to administer the Clean Air Act seriously. As part of this obligation, EPA has been reviewing California's request for a waiver thoroughly, as well as the numerous comments received on this petition. Additionally, the Administrator has had numerous briefings and discussions with EPA personnel throughout the Agency regarding California's request, the statutory framework for acting on California's petition, and the facts presented by California and other commenters regarding the waiver petition. The Administrator has committed to making an independent decision, based upon the record, by the end of the year. This remains the case. The Administrator has the necessary resources and personnel in place to assist him in meeting this commitment.

Thank you again for your letter. If you have any questions, please contact me or your staff may call Tom Dickerson of my staff at (202) 564-3638.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "C. Bliley", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Christopher P. Bliley
Associate Administrator

cc: The Honorable Tom Davis
Ranking Minority Member

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